

hardier varieties may be grown successfully in some parts. The country is far better suited for grain growing, stock raising and for general mixed farming.

There is a considerable variation in rainfall, ranging from twenty to sixty inches. Spring, summer and autumn are fine, the winters a little longer in duration than in the case of southern British Columbia, and with, as a rule, considerably lower temperatures.

The timber growing in this part of the Province is much lighter than in the Coast sections, composed principally of a light growth of poplar and spruce.

The cost of clearing land is consequently much less than at the Coast. The estimated cost of clearing land will range from \$25 to \$100 per acre.

Summer frosts are prevalent in some localities, but as settlement proceeds and clearing of the land and cultivation are consequently effected, these summer frosts will largely disappear. This has been the experience in other parts of the Province.

A very large acreage of suitable farming lands is available for settlement through this large territory, and the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific has thrown open for settlement by the land seeker thousands of acres of virgin soil well suited for general mixed farming purposes.

PAST AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.—Let us review shortly the conditions which have obtained in this Province during the last few years, as affecting agricultural development. It is often asked how it is, with the unique conditions which we enjoy in this Province, that agriculture has not made more rapid progress. The four essentials for success in agriculture are present in very marked proportion in British Columbia. These are soil, climate, transportation and markets.

Where favorable conditions exist in these respects, agriculture, if conducted along right lines, must be eminently successful. Why, then, has there not been a more rapid development in the past?

The answer is not far to seek. The unprecedented wave of prosperity which has swept over the West during the past few years has very much retarded agricultural development. The get-rich-quick mania has pervaded all classes of the community, and farming has been looked upon as too slow a method of acquiring wealth.

A condition of affairs such as has existed during the past few years, must come to an end, and it is indeed cause for congratulation that this period of real estate speculation and consequent inflated values has ended.

Rural development should, of course, precede urban development, but the reverse has been the case in this Province. Our cities have been building up at a very rapid rate, and there has not been a corresponding increase in rural development. Now that hard times have come upon us, the inevitable result has happened—many stores and offices in our cities are vacant, and building operations have consequently come to a standstill. It is up to us now to develop and make productive our lands before our cities can go further ahead.

The talk now on all hands is "back to the land," and in the press of the Province, and in general conversation, this topic is discussed in all its phases. A "back to the land" movement we must undoubtedly have, but let it be conducted along sane lines. Many people seem to think that farming is becoming more and more of a science, and that only the man who understands the underlying principles of agriculture and their proper application, can hope to obtain the best results from agriculture.

It is hopeless to expect that a man who has led a city life can suddenly altogether change his mode of living and engage in a business which is decidedly a scientific one, and obtain the best results without having acquired the necessary knowledge. The class of men we want to get on to our land to produce are those who are accustomed to farm life, who have the practical knowledge as well as the theoretical.

These men will produce successfully the best crops from the soil, and make a success of the business.

Why is it that farm life in the past has been so unpopular? The answer, I think, is that there is too much drudgery on the farm, that the hours of labor are too long and the opportunities for recreation and social intercourse are limited. Our efforts, therefore, should be directed towards popularizing work on the farm, and how can this be effected?

Undoubtedly a great improvement would be brought about and life in our rural districts would be made much more popular and pleasant if settlement were effected in so far as possible, in communities. Community settlements bring facilities such as water laid on to the farm, telephones, rural mail delivery and a better opportunity for social enjoyment and recreation.

You cannot expect to keep the young man on the farm, if you work him day in and day out, without any holidays, from daylight till dark, and it is a very common thing to see men on our farms working as long as daylight lasts. There is no necessity for this. A man can do all the work of which he is capable in ten hours, and will not accomplish any more if you keep him at it fifteen hours.

Youth is gregarious and craves excitement, and unless we can provide for them a certain amount of healthful recreation with their farm life, we will not keep our young men on the farms.

Of late years, many railway lines have been constructed, and some are in course of construction at the present time. These lines have rendered, and will render available, many thousands of acres of good fertile soil in different districts of this Province, well suited for the different phases of agriculture. The three transcontinental lines which are completed through to the Pacific Coast—the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern—open up many fertile tracts of country in which there are undoubtedly good opportunities for successful farming, and which will provide homes for many thousands of settlers.

In many parts of the North, in the country traversed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, stock raising on a large scale may be successfully prosecuted. Large areas of land are also well suited for grain growing purposes, and the country generally is eminently adapted to mixed farming. Rapid settlement is being effected in this part of the Province, and this undoubtedly will increase in the immediate future.

The Canadian Northern Railway is also opening for settlement fertile tracts of country up the North Thompson River and in other districts.

The most important essential of success in farming undoubtedly is good markets, and in this British Columbia is very fortunate. We are not at the present time growing the produce which we should. Last year, the value of the home-grown products of British Columbia totalled \$30,184,000. The imports amounted to \$25,199,125, most of which can be produced in the Province to the best advantage.

A great economic waste is consequently taking place in the sending out of British Columbia to foreign countries large sums of money for produce which can be raised to the very best advantage in the Province, and as long as this large importation continues, farmers, with the protection which is afforded them, must have a good chance to make good out of their farming operations.

Our Coast and Interior cities, logging camps, mining camps, canneries, steamships and railways have to be supplied, and we have a very large demand in these markets for the products of our soils. The northwestern provinces of Canada look to British Columbia to supply them with fruits and vegetables, and a large quantity are now being shipped out of the Province to these markets. This market is rapidly increasing, and will take all that we can produce, at remunerative prices, for many years to come.

In addition, markets are being developed in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, China and Japan, and no doubt